MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Multinational Force Declaration Approved -- According to Jerusalem radio, the Cabinet approved the amended draft of the joint U.S.-Israeli declaration on European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers. The radio added that the declaration will be delivered to the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France, Italy and the Netherlands and that they will be asked to announce their agreement to the principles contained in it.

Debate, Comment on Strategic Cooperation -- The Knesset rejected by 57 to 53 the four no-confidence motions submitted after the signing of the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, Jerusalem radio reported. It added, however, that opposition and National Religious Party representatives have prepared a private draft resolution that would compel the government to obtain Knesset approval for the memorandum. The radio relayed live portions of the Knesset debate on the motions, including a speech by Alignment MK Abba Eban in which he criticized the specific reference to the Soviet Union in the memorandum because of the harm this might cause to Soviet-Israeli relations, charged that Israel has committed itself to providing military aid to the United States outside the context of Israeli security and claimed that the memorandum takes no account of the real danger to Israel, an attack by an Arab country. Defending the memorandum, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that it provides an answer to the danger that threatens Israel's existence -- the Soviet threat. He asked rhetorically if any sensible person could imagine that Arab forces present the only threat to Israel. Sharon also emphasized that the principle of reciprocity is an important part of the memmorandum and that it is aimed at deterrence rather than at cooperation in war.

Citing informed sources, HA'ARETZ claimed that the memorandum contains a secret section in which the United States undertakes to purchase specific quantities of Israeli goods and to store U.S. equipment in Israel and which mentions Israel's right to defend its security by any legitimate means. However, in a lengthy interview on the memorandum broadcast by Jerusalem television, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he knew nothing about such a secret section.

Arab Reaction to U.S.-Israeli Memorandum

Commenting on the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, the Libyan news agency JANA charged that it meets all Israel's demands for the "consecration" of its occupation and gives the United States a new springboard for aggression against the Arab nations. Cairo radio reviewed an AL-AHRAM editorial that said the U.S. failure to grant all Israel's wishes in the agreement provides a sort of balance that will prevent the United States from being seen by the Arabs as completely aligned with Israel. However, the editorial added that certain parties might view the agreement as justification for further rapprochement with the Soviet Union.

The Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH, quoted by SPA, asserted that the agreement will encourage the Soviet Union to intervene in the area by signing military pacts with some Arab states and granded it an "undeclared aggression" against the Arabs. SPA noted that another Saudi paper, AN-NADWAH, said the memorandum shows U.S. support for Zionist expansion and aggression and will weaken the forces of moderation in the area.

Amman radio reviewed an editorial in AD-DUSTUR, which asserted that the agreement is a serious development that will crush all hopes for achieving peace and stability in the Middle East. According to AD-DUSTUR, the U.S. insistence that the memorandum is directed not against the Arabs but against the Soviet Union only distracts attention from the real danger to the region, Israel. An editorial in the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM claimed that despite the mention of the Soviet Union in the memorandum, the agreement is directed against the Arabs alone. The paper added that the aim is to push some Arab states toward Moscow, thus perpetuating Arab disunity.

Syria

Habib Visit -- Noting that President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. special envoy Philip Habib during the afternoon, Damascus radio said their discussion focused on the situation in Lebanon and efforts to achieve national accord there. The radio also said Habib gave Al-Asad a message of condolences from President Ronald Reagan for the recent Damascus bomb blast.

Bomb Blast Arrests -- Damascus radio reported the arrest of all persons who had "organizational links" with the perpetrator of the 29 November Damascus bomb blast, who has now been identified. The radio also reported that Ba'th Party and National Progressive Front leaders headed a march in the capital condemning the bombing. According to SANA, the death toll has now risen to 81.

Jordan

In an interview with PETRA-JNA carried by Amman television, King Husayn denied that the Fes summit was a setback, terming the outcome "sound", although stressing that Arab leaders who failed to attend the summit conference will be responsible for the consequences of the postponement. Husayn explained that during the summit Saudi Arabia had tried to withdraw its peace plan from the agenda because it was offended by the "campaign of defamation and distortion" waged against the plan by some of the Arab foreign ministers. The king opined that it was natural for Saudi Arabia to be offended by such a campaign, which came from its brothers as well as its enemies, and he urged Arab leaders with grievances against each other to air them at the summit in order to preserve Arab solidarity.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Reporting further heavy fighting in the Susangerd area, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed that between 29 November and 2 December the Iranians lost over 2,400 dead and 104 tanks destroyed. The communique also said Iraqi planes raided Ahvaz airport and shot down three Iranian Phantoms in a dogfight over the city. According to a subsequent INA report, three Iranian transport planes were destroyed in the raid.

An Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio noted Iraqi attempts to halt the Iranian advance in Khuzestan but claimed that the Iraqi counteroffensives have failed and that the Iranians have maintained control of newly captured areas. The communique asserted that the Iraqis suffered at least 1,500 casualties in recent operations around Bostan and that they lost 101 tanks and personnel carriers. It also claimed that Iranian aircraft downed nine Iraqi planes on 2 December, including three in a dogfight near Ahvaz. According to a related Tehran radio report, two of the downed Iraqi planes were Mirages. In its reportage on fighting in other areas, the Iranian communique said Iranian Katyusha rocket fire destroyed an Iraqi missile base in the southern sector.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 232 3 December 1981

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INDIA

Gandhi, Venkataraman on Criticism of IMF Loan E 1
President Reddy Departs for Indonesia, Nepal E 1
70 Percent of Bangladesh Refugees Repatriated E 1

PAKISTAN

Afghan Gunships Attack Pakistani Villages F 1
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives, Holds Talks F 1
Talks Begin F 1
Meeting With Haq F 2
Comments on Ties F 2
Visits Military Headquarters F 2
Extends Support F 2
Minister Interviewed on Relations With Oman F 3

IRAN

Khomeyni Urges Muslims To Reject Saddam, U.S. I 1
Cabinet Discusses War, Economic Issues I 2
Prisoners Set Free on Khomeyni Amnesty Order I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 716 I 3
Guards Corps Communique on Operations in Iraq I 4
Fate of Iraqi Soldiers in Extended War Described I 5
Voice of Iran Reports More Clashes in Qotur Area I 6
Radio Iran Interviews National Front Official I 6
Foreign Ministry Denounces Damascus Massacre I 8
PARS on Soviet Plans To Reshuffle DRA Government I 9
PARS: Afghan Mujahidin Escape From Herat Prison I 9

GANDHI, VENKATARAMAN ON CRITICISM ON IMF LOAN

BK021311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister has said India will not accept aid or assistance from any external agency which dictates terms not in consonance with policies declared and accepted by Parliament.

In a brief intermission during a special discussion on the IMF loan in the Lok Sabha today, Mrs Gandhi refuted opposition criticism saying it is inconceivable that they will accept any such terms. She made it clear that the IMF loan provides us with only a line of credit and does not force us to borrow.

Earlier, moving the motion for discussion Finance Minister R. Venkataraman strongly refuted the opposition criticism that the government has surrendered the country's economic rights while securing the IMF loan of over 50 billion rupees. He asserted that the government had told the IMF authorities that it will consult them on economic policies but adopt only those approved by Parliament.

Venkataraman sought to remove some of the misconceptions regarding the loan. He said India has agreed to two important suggestions by the IMF. One of them is that the net credit of the government now standing at over 258 billion rupees should not exceed 300 billion by the 26th of March next year. The finance minister pointed out that this hardly amounts to a condition.

About the second condition on limited borrowing from outside markets, Venkataraman said that it does not apply to the loans from the International Development Agency and credits for more than 12-year term. This condition, he added, will also not affect bilateral payment arrangements with socialist countries.

Venkataraman also dismissed as baseless the charge that India has agreed for the devaluation of the rupee.

PRESIDENT REDDY DEPARTS FOR INDONESIA, NEPAL

BK030359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Excerpt] President Sanjiva Reddy left New Delhi today on an 8-day state visit to Indonesia and Nepal. He was seen off at the airport amongst others by Vice President Hidayatullah, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and her Cabinet colleagues and the three service chiefs. Charge d'affaires of Indonesia and the ambassador of Nepal were also present. The president is accompanied by his wife and Minister of Health and Family Welfare B. Shankaranand.

70 PERCENT OF BANGLADESH REFUGEES REPATRIATED

BK021029 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Seventy percent of the nearly 17,300 refugees who had crossed over to Tripura from adjoining Bangladesh have gone back to their home.

Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty told newsmen in Agartala today that none of the refugees were forced to leave their camps and each one of them had been given 10-days ration.

The Border Security Force apprehended over 2,300 people trying to cross the border without valid documents during this year. They included 1,178 people from Bangladesh and 109 from Pakistan.

AFGHAN GUNSHIPS ATTACK PAKISTANI VILLAGES

BK021612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1503 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Two helicopter gunships of the Kabul administration again violated Pakistan's airspace this morning and strafed many places, killing 5 persons and seriously wounding 3, including a woman. Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Karmal administration over these violations.

The Afghanistan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and was apprised of these border violations. A protest note was handed over to him. The charge d'affaires was informed that Afghan helicopters entered Pakistan's airspace at 0915 this morning. These helicopters flew over (Amocha) village at Inam Bostan, about a mile northeast of Nushki in Baluchistan. He was told that these helicopters fired on a village, killing one man and injuring two, including a woman.

The Afghanistan charge d'affaires was also told that these helicopters later reached the frontier post at Inam Bostan, 10 miles northeast of Nushki, and strafed and rocketed this post. Retaliatory action was taken by the Inam Bostan post and the helicopters flew away.

Later, these helicopters flew over (Assase), a village 36 miles southwest of Inam Bostan, and fired on a bus, injuring one passenger. This village is located 2 miles from (Amocha) village. While flying over (Assase), these helicopters fired on another bus, injuring four passengers, including a frontier scout.

The Afghanistan charge d'affaires was informed that this border violation by the armed forces of the Karmal administration is a serious incident. The grave nature of this violation can be judged by the fact that because of this barbarous act 5 innocent people have been killed and 3 seriously wounded.

The Afghan charge was also told that Pakistan has taken strong notice of the repeated violation of its airspace. He was warned that Pakistan will be justified in exercising its right to take proper retaliatory steps in its defense and that such violations and barbarous attacks will bring grave consequences for which all the responsibility will lie on the Kabul authorities.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES, HOLDS TALKS

BK011618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Arabia's defense minister, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 4-day visit to Pakistan. Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur received the distinguished guest at the airport.

Those present to receive the guest at the airport included the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen Sawar Khan, Defense Secretary General M. Rahim Khan, high-ranking civilian and military officials, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Pakistan, Pakistan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and diplomatic representatives of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and their counselors.

Later, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called on Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Talks Begin

LD012100 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Islamabad, 1 Dec (SPA) -- Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan and Pakistani Defence Minister Mr Ali Ahmad Talpur today chaired the opening of official Saudi-Pakistani talks focusing on promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

Following the meeting held this evening at Pakistan Defence Ministry headquarters, Prince Sultan told SPA, the talks reflected the deep-rooted strong ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He said further strengthening of cooperation will be of great benefit to the two countries in particular and the Arab and Islamic world in general.

The talks were attended by Kingdom's ambassador to Pakistan, Shaykh Samir ash-Shihabi and secretary of Pakistan Ministry of Defence Gen Mohammad Rahim Khan.

Meeting With Haq

BK020226 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Later, the president hosted a banquet in honor of the distinguished guest.

Comments on Ties

BK021652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said the purpose of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is to strengthen the larger interests of the Islamic world. He said this at a luncheon hosted in his honor by [words indistinct] board chairman. He said that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will continue to grow day by day.

Earlier, the Saudi defense minister, along with Pakistan Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur, visited a heavy-machinery factory in Taxila. The distinguished guest was informed about the establishment and functioning of the factory. The prince also planted a sapling on the premises of the factory.

Visits Military Headquarters

BK030621 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz visited the Joint Staff headquarters in Rawalpindi this morning. Joint Staff Committee Chairman Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan welcomed him at the headquarters. Later, the distinguished guest was introduced to senior officers of the headquarters. A brisk contingent of the Pakistan Navy presented an honor guard to Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The Saudi defense minister visited with the Joint Staff committee chairman for a while and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. They also exchanged gifts.

Extends Support

BK030413 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that his country will not tolerate any action which endangers Pakistan's security and integrity. He made this statement while addressing a dinner hosted in his honor by Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur in Rawalpindi last night. The Saudi defense minister assured wholehearted and continued Saudi support to the brotherly people of Pakistan. He said that Saudi Arabia has always maintained special relations with Pakistan and that the Saudi people have great respect for Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

On the Afghanistan issue Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed the hope that the Afghan refugees will return to their homes with honor.

Earlier, the defense minister, in his laudatory address, said that there have always been very close religious, cultural and economic relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and that these friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries have withstood every test. The defense minister added that Pakistan sincerely desires the restoration of peace and tranquillity in the region. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, through mutual cooperation and support, will work to attain this objective.

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH OMAN

EA021914 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] His Excellency Zafarul Haq, minister of information of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has praised the major achievements of the sultanate under the rightly-guided leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

In a statement to the newspaper UMAN published today, his excellency also praised the major role played by the Omani information organs to defend the causes of the Arab and Islamic nation. He pointed out the importance of his current visit to the sultanate and said that it took place during a tour of a number of Arab and foreign states and that it was a visit to brothers who share the same concerns.

He said that his talks with His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad ar-Rawwas, minister of information and youth affairs, centered on bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the field of information cooperation and efforts to strengthen them in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples. He added that the exchange of visits between the two countries should increase and continue to accelerate bilateral cooperation.

In reply to a question about the Saudi peace initiative, his excellency the Pakistani minister of information said that we officially supported the Saudi initiative to establish peace in the Middle East. This initiative should remain in the hands of the Arabs because it is the first time that such a plan has been presented by the Arabs.

To a question about the tripartite alliance recently signed between Libya, South Yemen and Ethiopia, his excellency the minister said that his country considers that if this alliance is meant to paralyze Islamic solidarity and to divide the Islamic world, then Pakistan rejects it in any shape or form.

He stressed that the Pakistani people will not be intimidated by the Soviet Union raids on their territories and that his country is going ahead in providing protection for its territories and people from any invasion.

His excellency the guest minister added that his country, in efforts to achieve this end, has contacted its neighbors so that Pakistan's desire to obtain defensive weapons will not be misinterpreted. In this connection, his excellency pointed out that the Indian foreign minister recently visited Pakistan and acquainted himself with the situation before Pakistan signed the deal for the purchase of American weapons. He said that India welcomed Pakistan's step and that his government said it would not oppose any steps that India might embark upon to purchase defensive weapons from abroad.

KHOMEYNI URGES MUSLIMS TO REJECT SADDAM, U.S.

GF030845 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni to a group of officers college cadets, members of the management of the logistical supply department of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, members of Tehran's Airborne Division, a group of Shiraz Air Force Base personnel and members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on 2 December at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran -- recorded, duration 30 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Gentlemen, I would like to thank the members of the army and [word indistinct] of the army who have come from various regions.

There are many things that we may not like to do, but which are nonetheless very correct. [Words indistinct] we and our Islamic nation are not and have not been warmongers or aggressors and we do not like this imposed war. We are saddened that these two oppressed nations should start a war and open fire on each other at the instigation of the oppressors, the United States and [word indistinct] Ba'th Party. You and every person in the world are aware that the crime was committed by the Ba'th Party, Saddam and the Saddamists. Even though we do not like the war, self-defense is every man's right and it is the religious duty of every person to defend himself, his country and his religion. Therefore, we are standing up to this power to defend ourselves.

Today Iran is united, full of activity, full of the desire for martyrdom and the other world. Under previous regimes none of this existed. Those who were trained by those regimes were only taught how the nation should be and nationalism [words indistinct]. Moreover, foreigners were (?active) in these countries and set the people against each other under the pretext of nationalism. Today, Iran has proved that we (?are with) all the Muslim nations and all the world's oppressed and that we consider them part of us and us part of them.

We are at war with those who may attack Iran or other places. We consider that all Islamic countries are part of us and that we are part of the Islamic countries. We, with God's blessing, would like to be as one and be united against the oppressors of the world. [Words indistinct] with the courage of our brave soldiers and our great nation has proved that no one can penetrate or harm this country.

You know that many countries are supporting Saddam and providing him with funds, weapons and personnel. [Words indistinct] we do not need the personnel of others or their support. We depend on God; therefore, who shall we ask for support? We depend on [words indistinct]; therefore, who shall we ask for financial assistance? We are conquering the fronts with glorification of God. Therefore, who shall we ask to help us? We ask God to help us with [words indistinct] and God is helping us. Therefore, the condition is that we should remain faithful to our oath that we have made for Islam -- to preserve Islam, the Islamic country and Islamic [word indistinct]. We should never forget that we are God's creatures and that we are moving and advancing in His way. If we are honored with martyrdom it will be prosperity and if we achieve victory it will also be (?prosperity). [Shouts of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "(?Death to counterrevolution)" and "Death to America"]

We consider the [words indistinct] near. We are obliged to advise them. I advise the Iraqi Army not to send itself to hell in vain for the sake of an idol [taghuti]. I advise the governments in the region, which support Saddam, not to trouble themselves, not to support the idol and not to take up positions against the holy Koran and Islam. I advise the Ba'th Party to retire before it is forced to. Saddam should go to Paris and there with his friends should form a government. [audience laughs]

These people should be advised to stop doing these things and not to trouble themselves and not to spill the blood of youths. We did not wish for the Iranian and Iraqi nations to suffer so much just because of the satanic operations that their [words indistinct] and forces them to do so.

What will be Saddam's answer to the Iranian, Iraqi and other Muslim nations? What answer has Saddam prepared for the Iraqi Army, its commanders? He is causing millions of dollars of damage, which has compelled him to ask for loans from other places.

I advise all the governments in the region to abandon your support for Saddam and to fear the day when the most exalted, most blessed God shall become angry with you and that which befell Mohammad Reza and Saddam [as heard] shall befall you. Have fear of God's anger, Oh governments of the region and come to your senses. Do not fight against Islam and the Koran. All the nations of the region are Muslim and all want Islam. Why have you weak minorities taken a position against Islam and whay are you doing your best to support Saddam against the holy Koran and Islam? I advise all of you, all the governments, to turn to Islam and to fight the atheists, not the Muslims. They should united under God, not under the idol. If it is not obvious to them that all these U.S. plans are against the interests of the region and the Muslims, then they are very stupid. The United States is not going to stop making plans. The United States wants to create discord among the Muslims with all its might. You should see this in the recent plan they proposed, which has caused discord among the [word indistinct] Muslims and Muslim governments and it will get worse. If this plan is canceled there will be more plans put forth and Muslims should be mindful that U.S. plans are never in the interests of the East and Muslim nations and governments. All Muslims should be vigilant and should point out to their governments that they should not accept the U.S. plans that may be proposed one after the other. They should not be deceived by these devils, because they want to use you and [words indistinct].

The United States has evil intentions toward you. It wants to hire you for its own interests and it has done so. Why do you spend your resources on the inauspicious intentions of the United States?

Why have you taken a position against Islam and Muslims? [passage indistinct] The United States looks upon you as a slave and twists you as it wants. If Saddam had any sense and the United States had told him to attack Iran, he should have done the opposite. However, the most exalted, the most blessed God has taken away their sense and they are therefore acting against their own country and nation.

CABINET DISCUSSES WAR, ECONOMIC ISSUES

LD021202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting was opened with a recitation from the Koran.

During the session, news about the war and the recent victories of the combatants of Islam over the forces of blasphemy was reviewed. Then the economic situation was discussed and the timing of the implementation of economic development programs was debated.

Mr Banki, minister of state and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, explained the programs designed to revise the country's economy, the necessity for planning and for more comprehensive programs and the time needed to implement these projects.

It was agreed that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should prepare both long and short term plans by 21 November 1982 and submit them to government departments. In accordance with this proposal, the 21 March 1983-20 March 1984 budget for the executive branch will be a [words indistinct] one.

Then Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi submitted a report on the performance of the Defense and Political Committee [as heard]. Mr Mohaqqeq, the head of the state General Inspectorate attended today's Cabinet session in order to be introduced to and get acquainted with the Cabinet members. He submitted a report on the activities of his organization and stressed the necessity to implement the laws.

Then the prime minister said it is hoped that the government will be able to use the state General Inspectorate as a powerful ally in order to implement the law correctly.

PRISONERS SET FREE ON KHOMEYNI AMNESTY ORDER

LD011752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, following the imam's amnesty order for (?members) of minigroups whose return to the embrace of imam is ascertained, 24 political prisoners in Sari were set free after giving a guarantee of good behavior. Also, according to a PARS report, 21 individuals convicted by the Islamic Revolution Court in Miando'ab were set free. They were imprisoned in connection with imperialism [as heard] or for possessing narcotics.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 716

LD021814 Tehran Domestic Service in Pesian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Communique 716 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The proud heroes of the battlefields are selflessly waging battle in the trenches of honor and faith, having made a covenant with every drop of blood shed by their martyred comrades and fellow fighters in the trenches that as long as a single foreigner is present in this sacred land, they shall not rest and shall continue to defend the honor and dignity of Islam and the Islamic homeland until final victory over the aggressive enemy.

Saddam's helpless army, following its recent crushing defeat during the Tariq al-Quds operations, in the course of several consecutive offensives and by employing its entire fighting might, attempted to halt the advance of Islam's combatants, but in all stages met with stubborn resistance from our forces, and the enemy's futile efforts in the Bostan region produced no results.

Our combatant personnel, while retaliating for the fierce fire of the aggressors and while maintaining their control over the liberated fortifications, positions and areas, are carrying out their missions with the utmost vigor.

Apart from the booty and equipment which have fallen intact into the hands of Islam's forces during the Bostan operations, the latest reports count 101 destroyed enemy tanks and personnel carriers and a minimum of 1,500 Saddamite criminals killed or wounded in the remarkable victory.

Following the proud victories won by our combatant forces, today Saddam's broken army attempted retaliatory air attacks to make up for its defeat, but in this test too, it was vanquished by the defenders of our country's skies.

According to an air force announcement, this morning, 2 December, three enemy aircraft were hit and shot down by our fighters in the southern part of the country. One of these aircraft was shot down at 0745 in the vicinity of Hamidiyeh, the second at 1020 in the vicinity of Hoveyzeh, and the third at 1125 in the area of Kut 'Abdollah. At 1432 today another three of Saddam's attack aircraft, in the course of an aerial dogfight, were hit by our air force fighters and shot down in the area northwest of Ahvaz. At 1600 two enemy aircraft in the area northwest of Qasabeh and at 1637 another aircraft west of Ahvaz were destroyed by our fighter aircraft. Thus a total of nine enemy aircraft were shot down today.

In other operational zones the battle against Saddam's forces continues. An exchange of fire on the banks of the Karun River and both sides of the Arvand Rud continued between our forces and those of the enemy during the past 24 hours. Our worthy combatants, by opening fire, prevented enemy movements and activities. In the said areas, a total of some 110 of Saddam's troops were either killed or wounded and 1 enemy ammunition dump, 2 observation posts, a number of emplacements for various types of weapons, 22 trenches and foxholes, 2 mortars and 1 command post were destroyed. Thanks to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Karkheh region, 52 of Islam's enemies were either killed or wounded. The enemy suffered some other telling losses: On one of the fronts in the southern part of the country one enemy missile base was destroyed by our Katyusha fire and five enemy tanks were set ablaze and destroyed by our forces.

On all the fronts in western Iran an exchange of fire continued and thanks to the firepower superiority of our forces, 10 enemy trenches and foxholes and several observation posts were destroyed, more than 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed, and the enemy's artillery was silenced.

Also, our artillery fire destroyed 8 enemy trenches and 1 mortar in Tutmal region and killed 15 Iraqi soldiers.

GUARDS CORPS COMMUNIQUE ON OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

LD021804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Communique issued by the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Tehran on 2 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You, the pilots of the air force, have proved to the world that Iran is not what they think. "As long as there is faith in your hearts you will be victorious" -- Imam Khomeyni. Greetings to all the faithful and self-sacrificing heroes of the powerful army of Islam, in particular the high-flying heroes of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the guardians of the airspace of our Islamic homeland and the combatants who rely on the eternal divine force. On the anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitutional referendum, which was a heavy blow dealt by our vigilant and firm nation on world oppression, they, in defending the airspace of our country, managed to shoot down nine encroaching enemy aircraft and as result, inflicted heavy blows on at the falling body of the aggressive Iraqi Army.

The following is a report on some of the operations carried out by the army of Islam:

Continuing the "Jerusalem Path" operations and following the liberation of an important part of the southern area of our Islamic homeland, the brave heroes of the army of Islam, guarding the liberated areas, consolidated their positions and are still moving captives from the aggressive Iraqi Army behind the frontline. According to statistics, more than 1,500 personnel of the abject Iraqi Army have been killed or wounded so far in these operations and more than 101 tanks and personnel carriers of Saddam's army have been completly destroyed.

In the western areas of the country, as a result of the accurate mortar fire of the army of Islam on the positions of the Ba'thist mercenaries in the Harginah area of Iraq, 7 trenches were destroyed and more than 40 Ba'thist mercenaries were killed or wounded.

Following withering artillery fire by our combatants on one of the enemy's bases in the vicinity of the city of Biyarah, in the (Hafttavanan) area of Iraq, one vehicle and one 120-mm mortar of Saddam's forces were destroyed and 6 soldiers were killed.

In the Tutman area of Iraq our heroes opened artillery fire on the Saddamist bases, destroying 8 enemy trenches and one mortar and killing at least 15 of the aggressive troops.

In the Dehloran and (Makhil) areas, in the vicinity of Bayangan, the Revolution Guards Corps brothers, together with the green berets [Kolah Sabzan] of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, managed to capture six of the enemy forces, in a series of successful operations and killed four others.

Also, during a series of joint operations by Guards Corps brothers and Muslim Iraqi Kurdish brothers, the security center of the city of Sayyid Sadiq in Iraq came under siege by the combatants of Islam and in addition to losses inflicted on this center, four Ba'thist soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded. After the operations, these vigilant heroes returned to their bases safely, thank God.

FATE OF IRAQI SOLDIERS IN EXTENDED WAR DESCRIBED

GF030711 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0440 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The coming weeks will be decisive on the front. Iran will have no alternative except to continue fighting so long as the enemy persists in his illusion and persists in his usurpation of [word indistinct] and sovereignty. Iran is capable of this as the two major incidents in Karun and Bostan prove. They prove that power and domination belong to the soldiers of Islam and that the enemy can be expelled from the land of Islam through similar operations. The alternative of the Iraqi Army, it is that defined by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday when he asked the army to consider its options and described the coming weeks as weeks of decision and resolution.

The first option for the Iraqi Army is to consider its fate and the fate of the war and the wornout regime and then to examine the goals which Saddam sought to attain by sending the army to the war front. Let the army ask: How long will it stay in the place where the regime has forced it? When will it be exposed to death and the sons of its personnel transformed into orphans? Why isn't it fighting the usurping Israelis instead of directing its guns at Muslims? These are questions which the Iraqi soldier must ask himself. Sound thinking will save him from his quandary.

The Majlis speaker's speech in the Majlis yesterday was fraternal advice which a Muslim passes on to his brother. After Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his resentment over the scene of burned bodies scattered all over the front and after he regretted the capture of thousands of soldiers by the forces of the Islamic Republic, he asked the army to change its direction and adopt another -- fighting on the side of resistance and in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

Turning the guns from the direction of Muslims to their enemies needs only a moment's thought. The fate of every Iraqi soldier was defined by the battles fought by the soldiers of Islam. He faces three possibilities: he will fall in the hands of Islam's forces; he will be killed in fighting, his body burned and he will be prey for the beasts of the wasteland; or he will flee from the battlefield and thus will be entangled in the web of the Saddamist regime and then will be killed and his body sent to his family with the word "traitor" written on it.

Which of these possibilities do logic and reason accept? The Islamic revolution does not intend to harm anyone. Nor does it want the fate of Iraqi soldiers to be one of the three possibilities. The Islamic revolution wishes the Iraqi soldier what Islam wishes for him. Islam wants everyone to be free and independent and wants him to determine his own destiny, rather than let others play with his blood and destiny.

This is a golden opportunity for the personnel fo the Iraqi Army -- a golden one for their life and hereafter. They will have it if they do one of two things: force the officers and Iraqi officials to give up arms and quit the land of Islam as soon as possible to end the war soon. If they refuse to succumb to the soldiers' will, the soldiers then have to use arms to force them. This is the way to salvation and the way to safety from a mad war, which can have no result other than devastation for both Muslim nations -- indeed, for Muslims all over the world.

VOICE OF IRAN REPORTS MORE CLASHES IN QOTUR AREA

NC021613 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that following the strong clashes that took place last Wednesday in Qotur area in Western Azarbayjan between combatant national forces and the regime's revolution guards, sporadic clashes occurred in this region once again. The Voice of Iran correspondent adds that last Wednesday regular partiotic forces, supported by several combatants of the Mame'i tribe of Western Azarbayjan, attacked three posts of the regime's revolution guards in Qotur region, and the revolution guards suffered losses and fled, leaving their arms behind. This report added that national forces captured a number of weapons, including 32 G-3's, 14 Colt sidearms, two firearms and hundreds of bullets. The important point in the struggles by these popular forces is that contrary to some paramilitary groups, they carry out their redeeming actions without propaganda commotion.

RADIO IRAN INTERVIEWS NATIONAL FRONT OFFICIAL

NC021604 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Interview in Paris by unidentified radio announcer with engineer Hushang Kordestani, "member of the Central Council of the National Front of Iran," -- recorded]

[Summary] [Announcer] "Mr Kordestani, we thank you for participating in our interview today." Would you please talk about your activities and those of other members of the National Front since your arrival in Paris a month or so ago?

[Answer] We decided to expand our activities in two areas. The first was to organize "national individuals outside Iran" and the second was to continue in exile publication of the National Front newspaper, once published in Iran under the name of PAYAM-E JEBHE-YE MELLI. The fourth issue of this newspaper will be published soon.

[Question] "You and your other associates have issued a statement on the unity of forces which also endorses Dr Bakhtiar's political forecasts. Please give more details on this."

[Answer] In this statement, we have pointed out that "if in 1978 the Iranian nation did not actually have the opportunity to discern in time the true anti-Iranian nature of the regime that was trying to gain power, in Iran, fortunately with the passing of time the (?correctness) in Dr Bakhtiar's forecasts was proven." The statement calls for (?national forces to unite to overthrow the regime" and points out that our objectives can be reached only with "the national forces' (?political unity)." The statement has also called on Dr Shapur Bakhtiar and Dr Ahmad Madani (?to join forces).

[Question] Please elaborate on the motives behind the objectives of the National Front in exile.

[Answer] Unfortunately, the regime now ruling Iran has (?deprived) the nation of its means of livelihood. It "opposes our customs, history and historic (?values)" and in the past months it has also displayed its opposition to our "(?intellectual), devoted, national and patriotic youth." It is sad to think how our youth in Iran "are being sacrificed" while in other parts of the world youths are considered to be their country's future hope. The regime claims that the people being killed in Iran today are "precisely persons who oppose Islam and the Koran and that they should be executed by virtue of the teachings of Islam and the Koran." I wish to point out that the persons being executed are "precisely against Khomeyni's regime and not against Islam and the Koran." The conclusion that I want to reach is that those who "(?have unjustly gained power in Iran)" and have "destroyed" Iran lack "a popular and national base," and the Iranian nation "should continue its struggles (?against the regime) until its complete downfall."

[Question] What, basically, does the National Front consider to be the modes of struggle against the regime ruling Iran?

[Answer] The National Front believes in a (?general) struggle on the basis of political struggles. The struggle leading to the downfall of the regime should which include all the people of Iran. While not expressing any views on the modes of struggle by other groups, we announce that "we propose political struggles."

[Question] Please elaborate on the mode of these political struggles.

[Answer] "In our opinion, political struggles should (?emanate from two directions) and should be coordinated. One should be within Iran -- the main center (?for the determination of the destiny of Iran's struggles -- and the second should be abroad. The struggles abroad have an advantage which is that they can organize (?about 2 million Iranians) who are refugees and dispersed in various countries. This, in itself, can form a large propaganda force (?making the world understand) that the regime in Iran is not only anti-Iranian but antihuman" and that, thus, all people who respect human rights should oppose it. The other advantage of the force of Iranians abroad is that after the "downfall of Khomeyni's regime, all these Iranians who are experts" and who can play a determining role in the reconstruction of Iran, can be brought to Iran and their services used. But, as we have said, "the final destiny should be determined in the domestic arena in Iran." The message that can be sent to the Iranian nation is that wherever in Iran they are and whatever their tendencies -- "national and patriotic struggles, followers of Mosaddeq and nationalists" -- should form a resistance consisting of people who (?implement general instructions). They should bear in mind that initiative should be shown in regional activities keeping in mind the factors of time and place so that they can "struggle and strike" individually and also form a "massive and crushing force" when they unite.

[Question] How do you and your other associates see the unity (?between the opposition)?

[Answer] Now that I have come abroad, I can see that everywhere there is talk about (?unity among the opposition). Many of the people we know, and among them our friends, have aimed all their efforts "toward the creation of a unity among opposition forces" and the Iranian nation too has attached all its (?hopes) to a "solidarity between antiregime forces." But we have, "unfortunately, seen that this unity in question which, once (?established), will be a determining (?factor)? (?does not exist). Even though opposition forces agree on the downfall of Khomeyni, they disagree on (?what is to come after that). "That which is of importance as far as Iran's future is concerned is what will happen after Khomeyni's downfall.

"In other words, the downfall of Khomeyni's regime (?should be) a means for us to reach an (?ideal) Iran" and enable us to "establish a rule of the people by the people in Iran." In order to inform the Iranian nation that "we are always ready to cooperate and unite with all the groups that are today struggling against the Islamic regime," we (?announce) that if the following conditions are accepted by a group or groups, we will (?agree to unite). The first condition is that the group of groups in question should not want to "impose a new dictatorship in the name of Islam" on our nation. This is because with all that our nation has suffered it does not have "the strength to tolerate a new dictatorship in another form and in the name of religion." The second condition is that the said group or groups should "accept (?the principle) of national sovereignty and that the people of Iran should determine Iran's future regime." The third condition is for them to "accept that during the period between the downfall of the regime and the determination of the country's future rule by the people, a legal system should undertake the administration of the country's affairs." We think that "the best law for the administration of the country during this (?difficult) period is the 1906 Constitution" which is the (?priceless prize) gained by the constitutional movement and a law that has been approved by representatives elected by our nation." Therefore this law can -- between the downfall and the determination of a future system chosen by the people "through a referendum" -- be the (?basis) of the people's political, social and economic relations and of the administration of the country. Therefore, once these conditions are accepted, we will (?declare) "our unity with them and will announce that (?we will support) any step taken by them."

[Question] In your opinion, what is the best way through which the people can exercise their views on their future?

[Answer] The best way to do this will be a popular election of representatives for a (?majlis).

[Question] Some people say that you have "attacked the Mojahedin in your newspaper, the PAYAM-E JEBHE-YE MELLI. Is this true?"

[Answer] I deem it necessary at this point to state that "I have not attacked any of the opposition forces," and will not do so in the future either. What we did in our newspaper was "to discuss the government-in-exile of Bani-Sadr and Rajavi and (?to point out its weak points)." [passage indistinct] The conclusion I want to reach is that "the struggles of the youth and people of Iran toward Iran's freedom and independence have always been and are endorsed by us" and (?martyrdoms cannot be a proof of the justness of a political program of a specific group) [words indistinct].

[Announcer] Mr Kordestani, we thank you for today's interview.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES DAMASCUS MASSACRE

JN021431 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 2 Dec (SANA) -- The Iranian Foreign Ministry has denounced the heinous crime perpetrated last Sunday by the Muslim Brotherhood gang against the innocent sons of the Syrian people.

'Ali Tabataba'i, director of public relations in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said in a statement to the SANA correspondent in Tehran that we denounce this terrorist act and every group or organization carrying out such terrorist operations which lead to the martyrdom of many innocent people.

He added that it is natural for the United States and its agents to resort to such operations in order to undermine every country that wants to live independently.

Mr Tabataba'i pointed out that the Iranian people have always been subjected to such terrorist acts, as manifested by the incident at the Republican Party's headquarters -- when 72 of the cream of the sons of our people fell -- and by the explosions being perpetrated daily by U.S. agents in the streets of the Iranian cities.

Mr Tabataba'i declared that the Iranian Foreign Minister will issue a statement declaring its stands on the criminal acts being perpetrated by the Muslim Brotherhood gang.

PARS ON SOVIET PLANS TO RESHUFFLE DRA GOVERNMENT

LD011026 Tehran PARS in English 0938 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] London, 1 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- Reports received from London's press indicate that there are some personnel changes taking in Karmal's regime in Afghanistan. The Afghani prime minister has not been seen in public for about two months now, it has been noted.

The British broadcasting media believe that the Soviet Union, following a new evaluation of the political competence of the leading figures in the Government of Afghanistan, has reached the conclusion that the Khalq faction should be strengthened in preference to the Parcham faction. For two months now Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, the prime minister of Afghanistan, has not been seen. Officially it is said that he and his wife have been in Moscow for "medical treatment." It was also said that the Parcham leader Karmal will shortly be purged as soon as the Kremlin has found suitable successors to fill the seats in the installed regime in Afghanistan.

PARS: AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ESCAPE FROM HERAT PRISON

LD011954 Tehran PARS in English 1755 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 1 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- According to sources in Mashhad (Khorasan Province, NE Iran) close to the Afghan mujahidin a group of 60 Afghan strugglers escaped from the central prison of Herat last week.

The Afghans, who were sentenced to death, escaped from prison by a tunnel which took them two months to dig.

Following the escape of the prisoners, the sources added that a number of prison guards and officers were under questioning by Afghan authorities.